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ties. . . . The ultimate result would be a reduced selling price and the stoppage of the inferior collieries unable to bring down their working costs to the required point." The authors have apparently fallen into an error shared by certain members of their respective professions in America. In the long run royalties are not an element in the price of coal to the consumer, but like the rent of land, are a differential between the return on marginal coal properties and more profitable ones. The price of coal in the United Kingdom is normally a competitive price, determined largely by the pull of the export demand upon the supply at home. In competing abroad with inferior foreign coals British producers have an advantage which they have been compelled to share with British coal owners in the form of royalties. In the absence of price fixation by the government the remission of royalties would swell the profits of the more favorably situated producers rather than lower the price to consumers.

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*The Movement of Wages in the Cotton Manufacturing Industry of New England Since 1860*, by Stanley E. Howard. Boston: National Council of Cotton Manufacturers. 1920. 99 pp.

This report, published by the National Council of Cotton Manufacturers, again makes use of that increasingly popular device, the United States Bureau of Labor Index of Wholesale Commodity Prices, as a measure of the progressive increase of real as opposed to money wages for long-time comparisons. The extent of the rise of real wages in this case is so startling as to call into question the legitimacy of the use of that index as a measure of money wages in terms of cost of living.

Aside from a very interesting and competent digression into the inadequacies of the Fall River Experiment, which attempted to fix wages on the basis of a sliding scale based on the margin of profit, the report confines itself to the construction of a single index of wages in the Cotton Manufacturing Industry of New England since 1860. This is done to make possible a comparison of that index with the wholesale price index of the Bureau of Labor as a measure of the rise of real wages. The materials are taken from the reports of investigations of wages in the cotton industry made by the Weeks and Aldrich Investigating Commissions and by the United States Bureau of Labor. The construction of this wage index is a very careful piece of work. Supplementary historical and statistical data are included to throw as much light as possible on the causes of wage fluctuations owing to general business conditions, or to conditions peculiar to the industry, both technical and financial. Also, some attempt is made to show the degree and nature of unemployment and the extent to which all crafts within the industry were affected by wage changes, though such conclusions are necessarily rough because of the limitation of material.

The wage index shows that money wages in the industry in Massachusetts stood at 276.9 in 1915, as compared with 207.3 in 1911 before the Lawrence strike, and 100. in 1860. Because of the wide publicity of living conditions in Massachusetts cotton manufacturing centers at the time of the Lawrence strike, that point is as serviceable as any for making concrete comparisons with 1860. In 1911, when money wages stood at 207.3 in Massachusetts as compared with 100. in 1860, 6.61 per cent of the employees were receiving full-time weekly earnings, according to the report, of under five dollars; 50 per cent under eight dollars; and 90 per cent under twelve dollars. This does not take into account the relatively high degree of unemployment. That means that full-time weekly earnings, not counting unemployment, in 1860, would show 50 per cent of the employees receiving less than four dollars, and 90 per cent less

than six dollars. These figures are well grounded as shown by the evidence presented. However, the report goes on to make a comparison of these money earnings with the cost of living, and uses the Bureau of Labor Wholesale Price Index as a measure of the cost of living. This shows that wholesale prices, and therefore presumably the cost of living, stood lower in 1911 than in 1860, 91.6 as compared to 100.

It is this discrepancy that challenges the validity of the use of the wholesale price index as a measure of real wages, especially over such long periods. It raises questions regarding the relation of wholesale to retail prices, and the relation of fluctuations of business prices to prices entering into the cost of living, especially for periods as distant as 1860. To what degree did the cost of living enter into the business system? To what extent were rents reflected in the wholesale price index in 1860? What was the effect on food prices of the less-crowded living conditions, making garden cultivation possible? To what extent was the town fed by the immediate countryside, excluding large-scale speculation in foods, and the transportation and wholesale handling of them?

These and similar questions must be answered before any such conclusions as appear in this report can obtain critical acceptance. Such comparisons are always interesting. Their danger lies in their uncritical employment by those to whom the publishers may distribute this report.

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*A Study of Women Delinquents in New York State*, by Mabel Ruth Fernald, Mary Holmes Stevens Hayes, Almena Dawley, and Beardsley Ruml. New York: The Century Company. 1920. xviii, 542 pp.

This study of women delinquents in New York State, to which Katherine Bement Davis has contributed the preface, is illustrative of the kind of investigation that ought to be carried on in all the prisons of the United States. For centuries we have been trying to reduce the volume of crimes by crude and unscientific methods, making little or no attempt to understand the human beings whom we hanged, tortured, and imprisoned. Why the criminals themselves have been so long overlooked and neglected, and their acts given so much attention by lawmakers will be one of the questions for future historians of civilization to wrangle over.

The book is based on the case histories of women found in certain institutions, together with the histories of a group of women placed on probation by the Night Court of the boroughs of Manhattan and Bronx. Although these institutions represent all the types of institutions in which women are confined in New York State, not enough attention was paid, in the reviewer's opinion, to their location. Some should have been selected that served the needs of purely rural communities in order that all types of delinquent women might be included in the picture. A more serious criticism could be made of the number investigated. Only 587 women were covered by the survey. When this total is divided into various groups, the number in each group is rather small for statistical purposes. One must remember, however, that it is no easy task to obtain data such as has been collected for this group of women, and should be thankful that the number is as large as it is.

While including the data ordinarily presented in statistical studies of delinquents, such as sex, age, marital condition, color, and nature of offense, the investigation deals also with early home conditions, educational background, occupational history, sex irregularities, and mental capacity—matters of far more significance to the seeker